

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2896

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4138

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJ: LDP SEC GEN HASHIMOTO ASKS DIETMAN ISHIHARA TO RUN FOR
GOVERNOR OF TOKYO

1. LDP SEC GEN TOMISABURO HASHIMOTO REPORTED TO HAVE MET WITH REPRESENTATIVE SHINTARO ISHIHARA AT DIET BUILDING APRIL 4 AND ON BEHALF OF PARTY FORMALLY REQUESTED HIM TO RUN AS LDP CANDIDATE IN 1975 TOKYO GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION. ISHIHARA DID NOT RESPOND IMMEDIATELY, BUT ACCORDING TO LDP SOURCES IS EXPECTED TO MEET BEFORE END OF WEEK WITH PRIME MINISTER TANAKA (WHO ALSO PRESIDENT OF LDP) TO ACCEPT CANDIDACY, ON CONDITION HE RECEIVES ALL- OUT PARTY SUPPORT.

2. HASHIMOTO HAS BEEN RUMORED PAST FEW WEEKS TO BE TRYING TO PERSUADE PROVEN, YOUNG, ATTRACTIVE AND CHARISMATIC VOTE-GETTER ISHIHARA TO ACCEPT AND ANNOUNCE CANDIDACY AT THIS EARLY STAGE IN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO BOLSTER LDP PROSPECTS IN TOKYO METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY ELECTION TO BE HELD IN JULY THIS YEAR.

3. INCOMBENT GOVERNOR RYOKICHI MINOBE HAS NOT YET OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION, TO SEEK THIRD TERM, BUT IS WIDELY EXPECTED TO DO SO AT PROPER TIME. JSP AND JCP WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT HIM.

4. COMMENT: FEW OBSERVERS DOUBT THAT LDP, PARTICULARLY SEC GEN WHO RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS ELECTION PERFORMANCE, APPRE-
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HENSIVE ABOUT SUFFERING POSSIBLE LANDSLIDE DEFEAT TO JSP AND JCP IN TOKYO METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY ELECTION THIS JULY, WHICH WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS OMEN OF LDP LOTIES SERVICE BID FOR SAUDI ARABIAN SECOND MINING AREA. OIL MIN YAMANI TOLD THEM THAT HIS MINISTRY HAD SENT ITS RECOMMENDATION TO KING FAISAL AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, BUT GAVE NO INDICATION WHETHER HE RECOMMENDED GRANTING CONCESSION TO THE JAPAN GROUP OR TO OCCIDENTAL. TSUMURA EXPECTS TO RECEIVE FINAL ANSWER IN MAY.

3. BEFORE THIS GROUP'S DEPARTURE FROM TOKYO, MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI) TOLD SHIMADA AND IMAZATO TO ACT AS SURROGATE FOR POSTPONED NAKAYAMA MISSION TO THE MIDDLE EAST (REFTELS A AND B) AND TO MAINTAIN QTE GOOD ATMOSPHERE UNQTE WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN JAPAN AND SAUDI ARABIA. THEREFORE, SHIMADA PROPOSED TO THE SAUDIS THAT A JOINT COMMITTEE BE ORGANIZED IN JAPAN TO WORK WITH A SIMILAR GROUP IN SAUDI ARABIA TO COORDINATE JAPANESE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE SAUDIS. YAMANI AGREED TO LEAD THE SAUDI SIDE. JPDC AND THE OVERSEAS TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGENCY UNDER NAKAYAMA WILL LEAD THE JAPANESE JOINT COMMITTEE. ACCORDING TO TSUMURA, DISCUSSIONS WILL BEGIN WITHIN 2 MONTHS ALTHOUGH RYOHEI SUZUKI, MITI MINERAL, OIL AND COAL MINING BUREAU OIL POLICY DIVISION DIRECTOR, TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE DOES NOT EXPECT SUCH COOPERATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. (NOTE COMMENT REF C RE POSSIBLE SAUDI MISTRUST OF JAPANESE AS RESULT OF FIRST NAKAYAMA MISSION IN 1971.)

4. SHIMADA ALSO DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTION OF A PETROCHEMICAL PLANT IN SAUDI ARABIA BY THE MITSUBISHI GROUP. (ACCORDING TO MOODY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COVEY, VICE PRESIDENT, MITSUBISHI OIL COMPANY, A MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES REP IN BEIRUT ACCOMPANIED SHIMADA TO RIYADH.) ACCORDING TO TSUMURA, FEASIBILITY STUDY WILL BE COMPLETED IN 6 MONTHS AFTER WHICH CONCRETE DISCUSSIONS WILL BEGIN. WHEN QUERIED AS TO POSSIBLE PROBLEMS WITH IMPORT OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF FINISHED PRODUCTS INTO JAPAN FROM SUCH A PLANT, TSUMURA SAID THAT MITI HAD GIVEN ITS QTE TACIT APPROVAL UNQTE TO THIS. TSUMURA DENIED PRESS REPORT THAT THIS PLANT WOULD REQUIRE INVESTMENT OF \$1 BILLION TO BE

SHARED EQUALLY BY JAPAN AND SAUDI ARABIA , STATING
THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO DISCUSSIONS RE SIZE OR COST OF
PLANT.

5. WHEN SHIMADA ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF JAPAN' S
PURCHASING SAUDI PARTICIPATION CRUDE, YAMANI
EXPLICITLY STATED THAT ANY SUCH ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE
TIED IN WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND INDUSTRIALIZATION.
SHOESMITH

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